Dewan's reply.—Your complaint is against the Municipality and not against the Government. The Municipality levies taxes under the Municipal Regulation. According to that Regulation the Council passes a resolution proposing the levy of tax at a certain rate. The resolution is published and objections heard ; and finally, the imposition of the tax is decided. You should therefore ventilate your views before the Nagercoil Municipal Council.

82. Neyyattinkara Municipality and its needs.

Mr. N. Krishna Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara) represented that the present Municipal Regulation should not be wholly applicable to places like Neyyattinkara, where the congested portions were comparatively small. The majority of the places in the town were mere country places away from the main road and they received no benefit from municipal activities. As such the Municipal Regulation should not be applied there. He proposed that municipalities should be divided into two groups, *viz.*, major and minor municipalities, and that there should not be any difference between the minor municipalities in which the Neyyattinkara Municipality should be included and the old Town Improvement Committees. Minor municipalities might, he said, be declared major as they grew in importance and extent. The Member brought forward certain suggestions for the better administration of the Neyyattinkara Municipality. Firstly, a readjustment of the limits of the Municipality was necessary. It was absolutely necessary to include the Aralumudu market within Neyyattinkara municipal limits, as it was only less than a mile away from the town; and Balaramapurom also should be brought within municipal limits.

Next, he dealt with the question of toll gates. He remarked that between Trivandrum and Nagercoil there were four municipalities and that it would be too burdensome for the people, if there were to be toll gates at all those places. To avoid the difficulty he proposed that no municipality need have any revenue under that head. He then represented that the want of necessary funds made it impossible for his municipality to undertake any big work. There were no big markets and the income derivable from house-tax and professional tax would be nominal. To raise house-tax above 2½% on the annual rental value was against the wishes of the people. Owing to its poor financial condition, the municipality could not undertake educational responsibility nor could they take up road maintenance unless the whole funds were transferred from the P. W. D. He said that a new source of income could be resorted to by converting the local private markets into public markets and bringing them under municipal management. He requested that this might be done.

Lastly, he made an earnest request for an increase in the amount of Government grant. The present grant of Rs. 500 was too small ; if the municipality should continue, the Government grant should be raised and fixed at Rs. 1,500.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the general question that has been raised, *viz.*, the division of the municipalities into major and minor municipalities, it is a matter for legislation. But I may point out that the Municipal Regulation is very elastic and is so drafted as to meet the needs of big towns where more taxes can be levied and higher rates of taxation adopted as well as small towns which are more rural in character. The question of tolls is receiving the attention of Government. As regards the extension of the municipal limits, if, as the Member says, the Municipal Council has forwarded its resolutions to Government, the question will be considered by Government. As for the conversion of private markets into public markets, I am not clear how it can be brought about except by acquiring private markets or taking lands on lease. Even in regard to that, definite proposals should come from the municipality. The other suggestions will be considered.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M.

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